

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO.
	§	
\$11,880.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY,	§	
Defendant	§	

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE IN REM

United States of America, Plaintiff, files this action for forfeiture against approximately \$11,880.00 in United States currency, Defendant in rem, and alleges the following.

*Nature of the Action*

1. This is an action to forfeit property to the United States pursuant to 31 U.S.C. §5317(c)(2).

*Defendant in Rem*

2. Defendant in rem is approximately \$11,880.00 in United States currency that was seized at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, from Kazuo Udagawa on February 14, 2010.

*Jurisdiction and Venue*

3. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1355 because this is an action for forfeiture.

4. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355 and 1395(a) and (b) because the acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in the Southern District of Texas, the property was found and is located in the Southern District of Texas, and this forfeiture action accrued in the Southern District of Texas.

*Basis for Forfeiture*

5. The Defendant in rem is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 5317(c)(2) which provides that any property involved in violations of 31 U.S.C. §§ 5316 and 5324(c) may be forfeited to the United States. Under 31 U.S.C. § 5316(a)(1)(A), a person shall file a report when the person knowingly transports, is about to transport, or has transported a monetary instrument of more than \$10,000 out of the United States. Under 31 U.S.C. § 5324(c)(1) and (2) no person shall, for the purpose of evading the reporting requirements of section 5316, fail to file a report required by 31 U.S.C. § 5316 and no person shall file a report required by 31 U.S.C. § 5316 that contains a material omission or misstatement of fact. United States currency is a monetary instrument under 31 U.S.C. §5312(a)(3)(A).

*Facts*

6. On February 14, 2010, Kazuo Udagawa was about to leave the United States aboard Continental Airlines flight number 1628 to Belize City, Belize at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas. On the jetway, a United States Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBP Officer) conducted a Customs outbound inspection. The CBP Officer asked Mr. Udagawa if he was transporting more than \$10,000 in cash or monetary instruments for himself or others. He stated verbally and in writing that he was carrying only \$2,000.00.

7. As part of a currency verification procedure, CBP Officer found \$11,880.00 in Mr. Udagawa's luggage and wallet. When asked why he failed to declare or produce all of his money, Mr. Udagawa stated "Oh, I'm sorry." CBP Officials seized the funds for forfeiture.

*Relief Requested*

8. Plaintiff requests

a. an arrest warrant and summons, citing all persons having an interest in the Defendant property to appear on the return day of process by filing a claim and answer pursuant to Rule G(5), Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, or as ordered by this Court,

b. a judgment of forfeiture, and

c. costs and other relief to which the Plaintiff may be entitled.

Dated: March 23, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,


José Angel Moreno  
United States Attorney

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Albert Ratliff  
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VERIFICATION

I, Deanna Overholt, Senior Special Agent, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, declare under penalty of perjury as provided by 28 U.S.C. §1746 that I have read this Verified Complaint for Forfeiture in Rem, and the facts stated in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed on March 23, 2010.

  
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Deanna Overholt, Senior Special Agent  
U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement